



FFov/3673

Docket No: 740819-1126

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
Takashi HOSOVA et al.)
Application No. 10/550,397)
Filed: September 22, 2005)
Title: STRETCHER, STRETCHER SYSTEM) Group Art Unit: 3673
AND METHOD FOR USING)
STRETCHER) Confirmation No. 2304

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed. However, copies of the listed U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed since it is no longer required according to the July 11, 2003 waiver of the requirement for copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications in national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and international applications entering the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 after June 30, 2003.

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action

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on the merits, whichever is later. Since these documents are being filed within the time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), no fee or statement is required.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this filing which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Donald R. Studebaker

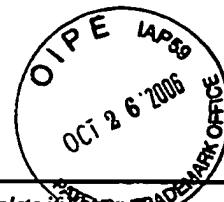
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<p>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>				<p><i>Complete if Known to TRADE</i></p>	
				Application Number	10/550,397
				Filing Date	September 22, 2005
				First Named Inventor	Takashi HOSOVA et al.
				Art Unit	3673
				Examiner Name	Not Known
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	740819-1126

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁴
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴				
R.S.	JP 3058160	06-08-1999				
R.S.	JP 2002-153512	05-28-2002	Seki et al.			AB
R.S.	JP 49-70356	07-08-1974				
R.S.	JP 52-128687	10-28-1977	Baato et al.			AB

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
R.S.		International Search Report, PCT/JP2004/004384, July 06, 2004	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.